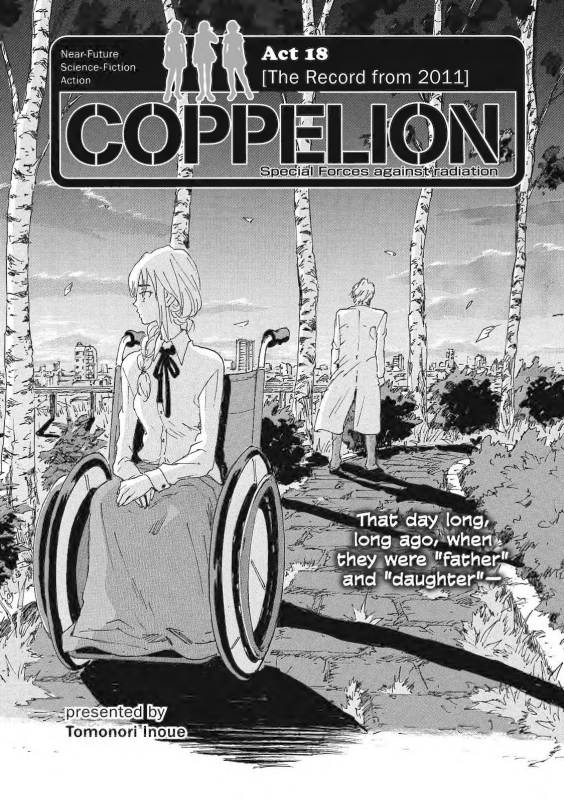
Near-Future
Science-Fiction
Action

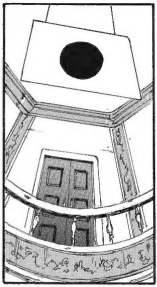
Act 18
[The Record from 2011]

COPPELION
Special Forces against radiation



presented by
Tomonori Inoue

The survivors have lost their ride to Haneda... but they keep moving in order to survive!
THE BUS TIPPED OVER?!
WHAT?!
2036 AD. Dr. Coppelius once again contacted the G9 heads of state. In exchange for Aoi Fukasaku's genome map, he demands a nuclear attack on Kazakhstan. Ibara and company must find the Doctor before he can complete his data. Meanwhile, the bus carrying the survivors has tipped over!
That's 15 kilometers from Haneda. Do you have enough oxygen?
You're in Denenchofu, right?
Fortunately, no one was injured.
Yes, Ibara.
And everyone else can take turns resting inside it...
WHEEZE
We can carry the elderly in the ambulance.
So we should be able to walk to Haneda...



Wait, there might be somebody who can help us—
...!

THIS IS IBARA NARUSE!
FWT
SECRETARY OUGAI!

There's just one request we have in exchange. Please!
No, but... we will!

Have you located Dr. Coppelius already?
What is it, Miss Representative?

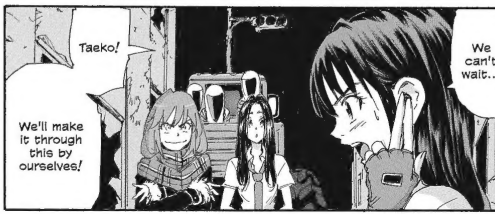
Very well. Let's make a deal.
A request?
ウィーン
SECRETARY OUGA!?
Could we have a moment?
KREEE
Hello there, Ougai!
ARE YOU THERE? SECRETARY?
FVVT

The radio cut out all of a sudden.
Secretary Ougai?!
HAA
Crap, what happened?!

The thing is... you can't trust those guys!
You were gonna try to get the Secretary to send a helicopter, weren't you?

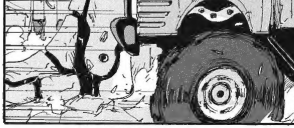
He's not gonna answer. You're wasting time!
Get a grip, Ibara Naruse!

But they just want to use you again!
They start actin' meek when their asses are on the line...


Taeko!
We'll make it through this by ourselves!
We can't wait...

Yes, Mr. Asimov. Please look after Alice!
I should stay in the ambulance.
I'm sure we'll make it in time, Ibara!
Yes!
...to Haneda!
Let's go...

KR
SH
109


He went flying off with the Retrieval Unit in that triangular jet, right?
HMM
HMM
Great, but where do we look?!

Okay... we're gonna find Dr. Coppelius...
And capture him before he finishes mapping out Aoi's DNA!

There's no way to chase after them, then!
VWEE
Wouldn't they've left Tokyo far behind by now?

This is the only place he can move freely.
He lived in secrecy for years and years...
He's still in Tokyo!
...No.
You want to save *him*?
The man who created our nightmares?

SLURP
SLURP

Nagoya Research Center—

SHHLRP
SHHLRP
BIL
CUP

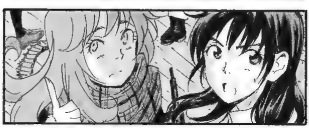
I have a favor to ask!
Ah, Mr. Mushanokoji!
You're off the clock? This isn't the time to be kidding around!

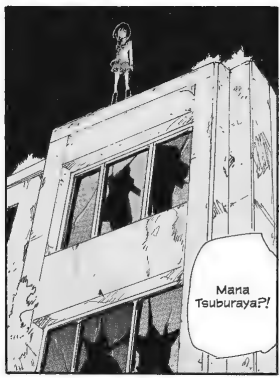
RINGALING
Ibara Natsue Incoming Call
Not again!
Doesn't she know how late it is?!
BEEP
I'd better get paid overtime for this!

Yes? What's that?
...
What do you want me to hack *this* time?
KREE
Yes, yes, I know!
You want me to run that name through the public facility recorde?
"Setsuna Itami"?
It's not as if I *can't* do it...
Well...
CLACK

Wh-What is it, Kanon?!
Stop! You humans, get far away!
CLANG
WHOA!

DING




Mana Tsuburaya?!

Weren't you with Meisa Ichikawa?
Where've you been?!

Couldn't you have come down?! You're wearing us out!
You ...!
HUFF
HUFF

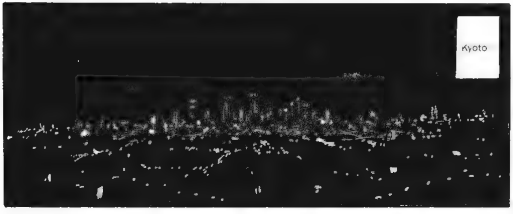
...went off...
...somewhere.
She...

Forget about Miss Sulky and help us out!
Look, that's the least of our worries!

The poor thing...
She thinks Dr. Coppelius betrayed her.
She's all alone.

...a triangular jet...
Well, there *was*...
You seen any dubious-lookin' crafts in the skies?
We're lookin' for Dr. Coppelius.
Du-bious ...

Where?
?!


Kyoto

Maybe he doesn't care for an evening drink.
Won't you have a glass, Ougai?
It stands no chance to pass! Not when you have the aid of our "alliance"...
There's to be a vote of no-confidence, yes?
We'd like the Prime Minister's signature, as usual.
What was our business again..?
State your business.
I'm in a hurry.

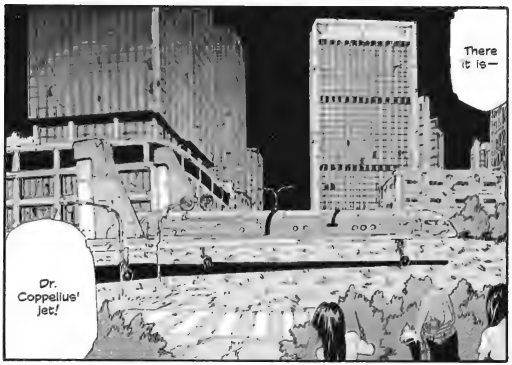
This time will be incredible! It will increase our business exponentially!
But of course!
FWAP
Nuclear power plants, that is.
Do you intend to sell them overseas again?
But they've agreed to give us preferential treatment in the negotiations, so long as we can fulfill one condition!
The high payoff brings with it more competition, of course!
However, there's not much time!
And what might that be?
A condition?

To take all of the waste produced by the nuclear plants...
...into Japan!
We've already protested that.
And wherever in Japan would you—?
There's always Tokyo!
If not, we could always dump it in Central Asia!
HMMM

This way, growing nations won't use it for nuclear weapons.
It's a measure for peace, just like they wrote in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.
HA HA HA!
The coffin enclosing Daiba nuclear plant may have reopened.
Is this truly the time to be exporting nuclear power?
That's still under investigation, yes?
Which is as good as saying that it hasn't happened!
Come, now, Ougai!
The revival of Japan's economy rests in your hands!
This is it.
Just sign here.

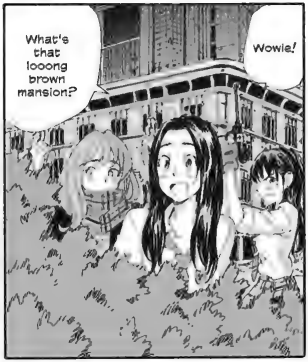
Wait...
Then the ones who proposed the vote of no-confidence—
What-ever is he talking about?
I've no idea.
Although it is true...
...that we could change the outcome of that vote with a single word.
Take some time to think.
We'll come for your answer at dawn.
WMMMM

RAA
RAA
RAA
RAA
I REPEAT! DISPERSE AT ONCE!
STAND DOWN!
A WORLD WITHOUT NUKES!
NO NUKES!


There it is—
Dr. Coppelius' jet!

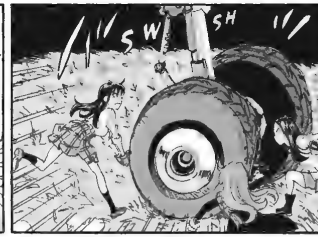
!
It's Tokyo Station.

Look!


What's that looong brown mansion?
Wowie!

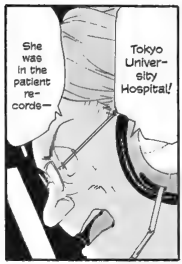
Hope you've got nine lives, then!
KCHK
Don't shoot it up— I wanna take survivors
Maybe we could fix it!
WHAP

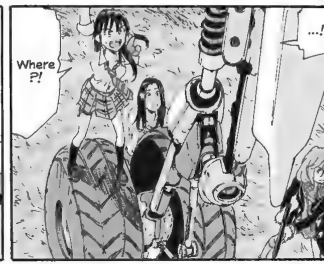
!
BVVT
THIS IS MUSHANOKOJI CALLING FROM NAGOYA!


SWISH

There was a hit for the name "Setsuna Itami"!
I found something!

Wait, what did you just say?!
We're about to infiltrate—


She was in the patient records—
Tokyo University Hospital!

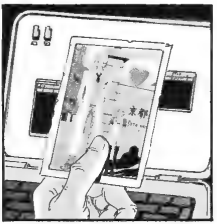

Where?!
...!

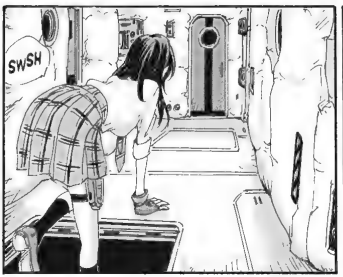
Amputated?!
Her left leg was amputated at Tokyo University Hospital in April, 2011.
Setsuna Itami, 15 years old.
Provider ID
Recipient ID
Expiration
June 2014
Name
Setsuna Itami
DOB
April 5, 1996
Address
TEL
Occupation
Student
Family
15:00~
She was alive 25 years ago...!
This must be a record from the original Setsuna Itami.
CLACK
Yes. She's not another clone!
TMP
Does it list her guardian...?
GWSH

That might be Dr. Coppelius' real name!
...
Who's that?
Let's see... "Matasaburo Itami"?
There's no doubt about it.
His daughter.
Then this girl, she's—
Huh...?!
We need that clue!
Yes.
You want me to investigate their relationship?
...

It's the only thing that can pull him up...
...out of the dark-ness.

SCREW
SCREW




SWSH

KREE

Phew, it's getting late...
Maybe I'll have some tea.
FWOOSH
BAM
Freeze, Dr. Coppelius!

Crap ...!
BEEEEP
?!
Run!
It's a trap!
WAHAHAHA
TIK

KRIII

...!
FWAA
UMP
Oof!
Shit!
The jet's ruined!
!!
Oh, were you still alive?

RA
TA
TA
TA
Heya!

Into the station!

RA
TA
TA

KCHK

The Retrieval Unit...!

They're comin'... Shion! Kanon!
Yup!
Finally! We're all fired up!

We'll get 'em to spill Dr. Coppelius' location!
Lead 'em into the station house!
Next time, an all-out battle with the Retrieval Unit!
Move in.
to be continued…